At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held in New York, on November 14-16, the Draper Medal was awarded to Professor Henry Norris Russell, director of the Princeton University Observatory, and Research Associate of the Mount Wilson Observatory.

GENERAL NOTES

Transactions of the International Astronomical Union; Volume I, 1922:—This volume will be an indispensable reference book. It consists of six parts, which present, in order, the preparations for the meeting, with the preliminary committee reports; an account of the inaugural ceremony, with the addresses delivered on that occasion; the minutes of the General Assembly on May 3rd and 4th; the minutes of the meetings of the standing committees; the minutes of the General Assembly on May 9th and 10th; the "Conclusions Adoptées"; and, in an appendix ,the statutes of the Union, the regulations of the International Time Commission and of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams, and, finally, a complete list of the committees and of their members. The material is arranged logically and with no unnecessary duplication, and the table of contents, which is in effect also an index, makes it easy to refer to any desired report or address.

Every part of the book, the formal addresses, the minutes of meetings, the historical introduction, as well as the committee reports, will be found of great interest; but it is the committee reports and the conclusions adopted by the Union on the basis of these reports that will be most frequently referred to. It may seem invidious to single out one or two of these reports for special mention here when they are all of value, not only to those engaged in the particular field of research of which they treat but to astronomers generally, but it is safe to say that no reports will be more widely read or more often used than those of (14) the *Commission des étalons de longueur d'onde et tables de spectres solaires,* and (25) the *Commission de photométrie stellaire,* which include most carefully prepared tables of

standard wave-lengths and of magnitude standards and color indices.

The book[1] is a credit to the Union and particularly to its editor, Professor Alfred Fowler, the General Secretary.

R. G. AITKEN.

Elements of the Pons-Winnecke Comet:—This comet attracted general attention at its last return in the summer of 1921 because of the possibility that encounter by the Earth with its scattered fragments might result in a brilliant meteor shower. The event proved that the large perturbations due to *Jupiter* in the period 1915-1921, had altered the comet's orbit sufficiently to prevent such an encounter. To illustrate the changes produced by such perturbations, it may be noted that in 1892 the comet's perihelion distance was 0.8865, in 1898, 0.9241; the Earth's mean distance from the Sun being taken as unity. In 1921, it was 1.0409. That is ,instead of coming within the Earth's orbit, as in 1892 and 1898, the comet, in 1921, was well outside that orbit at its nearest approach to the Sun. These figures are given in a letter from Mr. F. E. Seagrave, a member of our society who is specially interested in cometary orbits.

As a further illustration of orbit changes due to planetary perturbations, he sends two sets of elements computed by him based, respectively, upon measures made *before* perihelion passage in 1921 and *after* perihelion passage. The later elements give a longer periodic time by 21 days, a larger mean distance from the Sun and a slightly greater perihelion distance. He adds that the *Jupiter* perturbations will be small during the present revolution of the comet, 1921-1927.

A Copernicus Memorial:—A circular signed by Jan Krassowski, Professor of Astronomy, and Stanislaw Kalinowski, Rector of the Free University of Poland, calls attention to the fact that February 19, 1923 is the 450th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus. It states that a grant of land has been obtained

[1] In the statement of grants made by the Union, printed on page 283 of this volume of these *Publications*, the grant of 1000 francs per annum to the Comet Committee, for the preparation of a continuation of Galle's catalogue, was inadvertently omitted.

by this university upon which it is planned to erect an observatory "which is to commemorate for future generations, our free and independent country's gratitude to Nicholas Copernicus." An appeal is made for assistance to carry out this project. Contributions in money, in instruments or in books and astronomical periodicals will be gratefully received. All communications should be addressed to the Rector of the Free University of Poland, Sniadeckich 8, Warsaw (Wolna Wszechnica Polska, Warsawa, Sniadeckich 8).

Death of Colonel E. H. Grove-Hills:—It is with deep regret that we record the death, on October 2, 1922, of Colonel E. H. Grove-Hills, Treasurer and past President of the Royal Astronomical Society of London. "Endowed with great natural ability, and a keen interest in all scientific questions, Grove-Hills combined with these great administrative ability and sound common sense." While his chief contributions to science were in geodesy and his main professional work in military engineering, he took great interest in astronomical questions, particularly in questions of solar physics, and was a member of several eclipse expeditions. Astronomy as well as geodesy has suffered a severe loss in his death at the early age of 58.

We regret also to have to record the death, on September 27, 1922, of Professor C. Michie-Smith, director of the Kodaikanal and Madras Observatories from 1899 to 1911; and of Professor H. Batterman, formerly director of the Königsburg Observatory, on June 15, 1922.

The Occultation of Venus and of Aldebaran in January, 1923:—On another page in this number Professor McNeill states that these two occultations will be visible in the United States. Mr. J. A. Pearce, at my request, has therefore calculated the approximate times of immersion and the duration of each for Mount Hamilton. These will answer for the Pacific Coast in general if observers will begin to watch the objects a few minutes beforehand. They are as follows: *Venus,* immersion, January 13, 4^h41^m A. M.; duration of occultation, about 56 minutes; Moon's age, 25 days. *Aldebaran,* immer-

sion, January 27, 3^h52^m P. M.; duration of occultation, 1^h24^m; Moon's age, 11 days.

R. G. AITKEN.

Correction:—The tables in Professor Mitchell's article on the Trigonometric Parallaxes of Stars of A and B Types, pp. 255-257 of the October number of the Publications are marred by some unfortunate printing errors. The first heading should read B Type Stars, the second A Type Stars. The first star in the latter list is θ, *not* ϕ *Cassiopeiæ,* the 13th is β, *not* B *Aurigæ,* the 45th A. G. Cam. 6487, *not* R G Cam. 6487. A misunderstanding of the editor's instructions by the printer is responsible for the misplacement of the Sun-spot Summary Tables, on pages 298-299.

R. G. AITKEN.